

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to change “said propellant system comprising” to “said propellant system consisting of”. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found in the same claim, as originally filed. Claims 8, 9, 13, and 16 have been amended to properly depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 8, 9, 13, and 16 can be found in the same claims, as previously presented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1-9 and 12-14, and 16-22 are pending in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Alstrum-Alcevedo for indicating that Claims 1-9 and 12-17 are free of the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the present amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are fully patentable.

The rejection of Claims 1-9 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, has been obviated by amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claim 1 has been amended as suggested on page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8, 9, 13, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been obviated by amendment. As the Examiner will note, these claims have been amended such that they are free of the criticisms outlined on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. Thus, the rejection is no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 12-14, and 18-21 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 1 and 4-8 of U.S. Patent No. 7,347,199 (“the ‘199 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,423,298 (McNamara et al.) is being obviated by the filing herewith of a duly executed terminal disclaimer. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

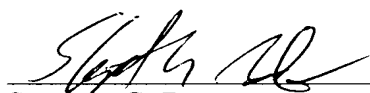
The provisional rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 12, and 14-17 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 19, 22, 24, 28-32, 35, 36, 40-47, and 50-52 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/504,151 ("the '151 application") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,716,414 (Lewis et al.) and the provisional rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of Claims 14, 15, 25, and 26 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 11/408,026 ("the '026 application") in view of McNamara et al. are being obviated by the filing herewith of a duly executed terminal disclaimer. Thus, the provisional rejections should be withdrawn.

Lastly, since product Claim 1 is now allowable and since method Claims 18-22 all depend from Claim 1, Claims 18-22 should be rejoined and allowed.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Stephen G. Baxter
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,884

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220